

**From:** Kerrin O'Brien <kerrinmrc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 3:33 PM  
**Cc:** 'JD Lindeberg'; 'Cary Oshins'; 'Brenda Platt'; 'Bernice Berens'  
**Subject:** HB 4265-4266  
**Attachments:** MRC ltr to House Energy and Tech Comm HB 4265-66.docx

**Honorable Representative Horn &  
Members of the Energy & Technology Committee**

**The Michigan Recycling Coalition urges a NO vote on HB 4265 and HB 4266**

The 1995 Yard Waste Ban is a proactive solution for managing leaves and grass as an important resource, the only way to manufacture dirt.

Composting Michigan's yard waste provides 4 times the number of jobs than landfilling. It is a growing industry with active investors. Any exemption to the Yard Waste Ban will: 1) cripple a developing industry that benefits local economies; 2) reduce the state's already low recycling rate; 3) contradict the current State Solid Waste Plan. It threatens at least 40 privately held businesses in Michigan.

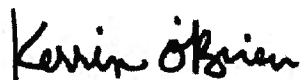
Composting is a cost-effective, environmentally sound, and decentralized method for managing yard clippings and organics without the short and long-term costs of disposal. Landfills are engineered to exacting and expensive specifications to control toxic releases resulting from the disposal of municipal solid and hazardous waste. They are *overkill* for leaves and grass. Landfill gases are dangerous and a poor performing, dirty source of energy. They contribute only a negligible amount of energy to Michigan.

Putting yard waste back into the landfill runs counter to modern waste management trends and places Michigan at a competitive disadvantage with regard to the development and implementation of emerging recycling and technologies.

While it is important to capture landfill gas generated from MSW for which there is no other utilization option, no other option does exist for yard waste; composting. These bills would have a net negative impact on the economic and environment.

The MRC Board of Directors and members urge you to oppose exemptions to Michigan's Yard Waste Ban.

Sincerely,



Kerrin O'Brien | Executive Director | Michigan Recycling Coalition  
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